

PENDLEY, E. T.

INTERVIEW

10037

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

PENDLEY, E. T. - INTERVIEW.

10037

Field Worker's name Amelia F. Harris

This report made on (date) February 25, 1938.

1714 N. May Ave. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

1. Name E. T. Pendley
2. Post Office Address Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
3. Residence address (or location) 1724 N E. 11th
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month March Day 12 Year 1868
5. Place of birth Green Forest County, Arkansas.
6. Name of Father John Pendley Place of birth Bowling Green,
Kentucky
Other information about father _____
7. Name of Mother Isobeready Pendley Place of birth Bowling Green,
Kentucky
Other information about mother Dead

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

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Harris, Amelia F. - Journalist.
Indian Pioneer History.-S-149.
February 25, 1938.

Interview with E. T. Pendley.
Oklahoma City, Okla.

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I came to Indian Territory in 1883. My grandparents were pioneers of Kentucky. They came west and settled in Green Forest, a fertile place in Arkansas, 100 years ago. Their first home was a double log house with a hallway between the rooms and a chimney in both rooms, and a large cellar underneath the house where Grandmother always kept apples by the barrel and canned and dried fruits of all kinds. Grandfather had a tan-yard on the place and tanned and freighted hides to the Springfield, Missouri, market.

I remember Mother said there was a cave near the old home at the foot of the Ozarks, where, during the Civil War, Grandmother hid wheat and shelled corn from the Northern Armies. She said the Yankees took all of their horses and mules, butchered their cows, everything but one yearling steer. Her neighbor, a woman, had one yearling steer too, so they went together and made a yoke of oxen with which they did all of their plowing during the war. After the War Father and one brother moved to the frontier of Texas

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and Father went into the cattle business. I was just six weeks old when my parents made this journey in a covered wagon. This trip covered a period of two months; bad roads, high water and rain made traveling very slow but the Pioneers never looked back. They were Texas bound to make a new home for themselves and they succeeded well for those times.

I grew to manhood in Texas. There is where I learned to punch cattle at the Spur Ranch. I have helped to drive cattle from Texas to Kansas over the Chisholm Trail, crossing Red River at Doan's Trading Post. Sometimes Red River would be up and we would have to camp and wait for the river to go down and often as many as fifty head would bog down in Red River. We boys would roll up our pants and wade in and work the sand loose and pull them out with horse power. We often crossed when the cattle and our horses had to swim; we always drove two teams to our chuck wagon but if we had to swim across we would unhitch the lead team and tie the wagon bed to the running gear, then a cowboy would ride on each side of the bed and try to keep it straight. As we passed through Oklahoma the Comanches and Arapahoes would ride up to us and demand two or three beeves "or make em cow run". In other words they would stampede the cattle. We always

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brought a few lump jawed steers along to give them until they caught on, then they would shake their heads and say "No want sick cow. Good cow". We learned not to make them mad if we wanted to get through peaceably.

I worked at the Spur Ranch in Texas three years. I met Mr. J. M. Daugherty from Catoosa, Indian Territory, on my last trip driving cattle from Texas to Oklahoma and he offered me a job which I took. This ranch played an important role in early Indian Territory history. It extended from the Verdigris River on the east to about where the Tulsa Midland Valley Depot now stands on the west and from the Cherokee-Creek Nation line south to the Blue Springs Ranch near Coweta. The land was first leased by Daugherty for 10¢ per acre from Chief Legus Perryman, Chief of the Creeks, and a full blood Indian. The ranch headquarters were located about two miles south of Catoosa. Part of this land was allotted and is owned by J. B. Gallo. The old ranch house was built out of boxing, 1890, by R. G. Sanderfer, an early day carpenter of Catoosa. Also the Jay Forsythe Ranch at Broken Arrow was a part of the Daugherty Ranch.

In 1894 Daugherty pastured 60,000 head of cattle, not all of which were his own as he pastured other people's cat-

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tle too. At that time he had 367 different brands; 10,000 of these cattle were shipped from Florida to Catoosa in double deck cars, like sheep or hogs are shipped. John Foutz who now lives on Route 3, Tulsa, helped to unload them. These cattle were not much larger than sheep, but they grew fast on the fine grass in the Territory.

We also drove cattle from Beeville, Texas, the Texas long horns. When we went to load them from Catoosa, we would have to turn the steers' heads cross wise to get their long horns in the cars. Will Rogers used to come to the Daugherty round-ups. He was only a big boy then, but a real cowhand and a good roper. We kidded him because, although he was only a kid, he was always chewing a big wad of tobacco as large as a hen egg. He took it good naturedly and kidded back.

I knew sixteen men who were killed between 1888 and 1896. Train robbers and out-laws hid out in the hills near by, getting their supplies at Catoosa. Two of these were Cherokee Bill and his partner, Bill Cook. Cherokee Bill was hung at Fort Smith, Arkansas.

I knew Judge Starr, an early day settler and cattleman, whose ranch was near Claremore. His boys went wrong but

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they were fine people.

After statehood and when Daugherty couldn't lease the land, he sold 10,000 head at \$18.00 per head after closing out his ranch at Catoosa. He returned to Texas and bought 240,000 acres, known now as the Black Mountain Ranch near Van Horn, Texas. His old bookkeeper, Charlie Hamilton, is still with him and still serves in that capacity, a bookkeeper for fifty years.

Catoosa is a Cherokee name meaning "two hills". There were two hills lying west of the town. The Albertys, Cherokees, were given credit for naming the town. They were one of the first families to settle here and they built a fine rock house, a half mile east of Round Mound. Other prominent Cherokee Indian families living in or near Catoosa were the Riders, Waffords, Walkinses, Denbas, Crutchfields, Ducks and others.

The railroad was built through here from Vinita to Tulsa in 1882, M. K. & T. Tom Reynolds was the first depot agent. Catoosa's business section was first built to face the railroad; later it turned its back on the railroad and formed a long main street with stores on both sides. Main street on Saturdays was always crowded with wagons, buckboards, bug-

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gies, and saddle horses lined ^{along} the hitchracks, with the usual type of people to be found in a western cow town. Cowboys, Indians and gamblers were to be found talking in groups; the hotels, stores, livery stables and the bootleggers all did a rushing business. The first store built in Catoosa was that of John Schrimmer and in it was our first post office. Schrimmer was first postmaster.

An early missionary here was A. N. Chamberlain, Presbyterian, stationed at Pleasant Hill which was about seven miles northwest of Vinita. Catoosa's pioneer schools were log houses, poorly lighted, with long log benches. A tuition of \$1.00 per scholar was paid. Bridges were unheard of in those days and the children rode horseback, often fording or swimming the slashes and streams.

Fort Spunky, on the east side of Spunky Creek and just a short distance east of Catoosa, was one of the first, if not the first, post office to be established west of the Verdigris River. It was established in the late seventies. It was on the post route which ran from Vinita to Fort Spunky by George Perryman's house, south to Tulsa, and on to the Sac and Fox Agency, which Agency was a few miles south of the present town of Stroud. Its last postmaster was Jim

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Crutchfield, a Cherokee Indian, and he kept it for two years until it was discontinued in 1883. Prior to the coming of the railroad there was a small settlement on the Verdigris River at the mouth of Bird Creek. There was a wagon ford and a ferry site^{had} then, too, and two or three sawmills and a store.

Peculiar Customs
of early Cherokee days.

All cow-punchers and working people except Indians or intermarrieds, had to pay \$1.00 annual permit.

A white man marrying an Indian had to pay \$100.00 license. Then they could be married according to Indian laws and have the same rights as the Indians.

A white man marrying a white girl had to put up \$50.00 but after he married he could get the \$50.00 back. I did this.

Every spring the Cherokees and some Creeks would assemble at some spring where they would gather herbs and boil them down to what they called a "spring tonic". All drank some of this tonic and they built a big fire and danced around it in a circle. They then served "sofka" which was corn beaten and husked in a mortar with a pestle.

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The Indians had a Green Corn Dance held about roasting ear time. This was a big occasion, with feasting and dancing and Indian ball games. It was the Indian custom to dance in a circle, and if the cowboy got too near the circle the Indian would snatch his hat off and wear it until the dance was over; then the cowboy would have to pay \$1.00 to get it back.

There was an old Osage Indian Cemetery, very old, west of Catoosa and near Hominy Post, and on top of a high hill. The Osages wrapped a shawl or blanket around their dead and would set them up and enclose around the body with a rock wall; then they put a buffalo hide over the top and they covered that with rock. They would pull their shawls over their heads and moan. It sounded so weird. They followed this custom until the Government forced them to dig graves and bury their dead.

After Jim Daugherty closed out his ranch near Catoosa I leased 540 acres for five years and went into the cattle industry on a small scale. This land was near Catoosa and we lived here until 1913. I sold out then and moved to Oklahoma City. I bought a farm at Jones, Oklahoma; also

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purchased the house I now live in. I have held a post in the County Assessor's office for 23 years.

Daugherty

W. E. Halsell

Jim Hall

Double --D D

Mescal

Tadpole-(La)

Buckle J

(84)

(69)

Their Brands

Early Day Cattle Brands in the Big Pasture, Cherokee Strip, Oklahoma.

Note:

Grazers' License, Cherokee Nation, with seal, signed by Major Light, Sept. 30th, 1883.

Mr. Pendley has a grazers' license from the Cherokee Nation which he said I might take a photostat from.

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Early Day Cattle Brands.

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Early Day Cattle Brands.

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Early Day Cattle Brands.

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Early Day Cattle Brands.

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(OLD TRAILS)

